May 26

Matthew 6:9

"Prayer—Focus On"

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

1	"After This Manner"

"This manner" is a general guideline, method, or template. Prayers should include

certain parts or criteria. “After this manner means, “Do it like this”.

2	“Pray Ye”

Biblical prayer is communicating with God. Prayer includes speaking to God in sincerity.

Also, a part of communicating with God through prayer is being spiritually in sync enough to listen—to really hear what

God is revealing. God-honoring prayer requires personal discipline and submission to the Holy Ghost.

You pray. “Pray Ye.” You do it. Don’t wait for deacon, elder, bishop, or prophet, etc. to do it. Prayer is not only your right, it’s also your responsibility.

3	“Our”

“Our” includes True Believers; those who seek God’s will more than their own desires.

“Our” refers to those who pursue Holy God—His person, purpose, and will. “Our” is a collection of godly souls—many of whom may not know one another, do not look alike, and may not speak the same

language, but are joined by the same blood. That is, the blood of Jesus.

4	“Father”

The caring hearer who is able and willing to guide. Similar to a *GOOD* earthly parent, this Father loves and cares for all of His children.

He disciplines and corrects, though it may appear to

hurt the children. He knows more about the future than the children know and warns them for the purpose of protecting them.

Questions:
What of those who have never known an earthly father or who, through death, have lost theirs?

What about those who have

been abandoned or abused by a biological father or a step-father? How should anyone in those situations view this? How can a victim of a poor or absent male role model, particularly an earthy "father" relate to the idea of a heavenly "Father"?

The title, "Father" needs to be viewed in light of

Creator's CHARACTER. It's not about the word "father" itself. It is also not about gender. No. Not at all. Instead, we must understand that it is God's nature. That is what is significant in connection to "Father" as in this instruction from Jesus about prayer.

We should understand and

focus on the qualities of God as one who feels our pains, losses, and disappointments; as provider, comforter, loving disciplinarian, one who has wisdom and foresight, a kind and deep listener.

The Lord's prayer is a template; it's a model—not a prayer to be repeated in place of or in lieu of sincere

personal prayer.

5 “Art In”

The words, “art in” not only signify the location or where the Father is located.

But, on a deeper level, it means, “currently present or open for the business of communication. “Art in” means, available to you. It says: the Father is there—right now and any time.

As with the secular phrase, “the doctor is in”, in this passage, the Father is “IN”. No Waiting. He is ready to talk and to listen.	
6	“Heaven”
It denotes, not only a physical or spiritual place, but also means the Father is in a place and position of authority and power.	
7	“Hallowed”
The word is defined as holy,	

revered, anointed, blessed, consecrated, dedicated, divine, honored, sacred, sanctified, and unprofaned.

This Father, not an earthly one, is holy. That means, again, not like any physical father on earth. Father is altogether right and true. Anything he speaks is good for you. He has no interest in being “positive” or in boosting your

“self-esteem”. He is completely real and righteous. That’s holiness. Heavenly Father is holy.	
8	“thy Name”
Heavenly Father’s name is not so much about a proper name as the fact that speaks of God’s character, attributes, spirit, essence, and nature.	
Do we know God’s proper	

name?

Knowing that some humans already use the word "GOD" in vain—in irreverence, disrespect, and in intentional blasphemy, what might happen if God's most sacred name or names were readily known?

What we do know is that what is called *The Lord's Prayer* or sometimes called *The Model Prayer*, is a useful guide for praying in a way that honors God. This is just a small portion of the prayer, but, it alone, gives us a lot to pray about— a lot to focus on.